

## CALCH visits schools

During 2013 the CALCH project has been visiting local schools and getting them involved in finding out all about lime and the response has been fantastic. Tycroes Primary, Ysgol Y Bedol, Brynaman CP, Llandovery Gollop Prep, Llandeilo CP and Amman Valley Comprehensive all took part by visiting the site, creating inspiring art works, re-enacting the Rebecca Riots and even getting scientific.

Our school projects have been designed to meet the needs of each individual school with a programme of classroom sessions combined with a visit to the Black Mountain Lime Quarries. The results have shown how versatile the lime quarries can be in relating to the varied educational goals of each school. Here's a little more about each project:

Tycroes Primary school wanted to create a bold artwork to display in their new school hall, in fact they created three! Using photographs they had taken on a visit to the quarries the class used a variety of materials to portray different aspects of the quarry landscape.

Ysgol Y Bedol and Brynaman CP School both wanted to concentrate on the chemistry of lime. So after our quarry visit we looked at the formation of calcium carbonate (limestone) and undertook investigative experiments to evaluate the reaction of acids and alkalis and the neutralising effect of spreading an alkali product such as lime onto an acidic field. Pupils enjoyed testing different products with litmus paper and solution as well as evaluating the effects of acidic vinegar on chicken bones and egg shells.

Year 9 Pupils from Amman Valley Comprehensive Schools 'more able and talented' (MAT) programme visited the quarry during May to see how they could get involved. They later joined us on a hot summer's day to help complete some field surveying on some of the kilns on site. The group quickly learnt how to identify kilns and their associated features as well as record and photograph them.

Llandovery Gollop preparatory School invited us to join their activity week during July. Following a classroom session and an enjoyable site visit we used air-drying clay to construct our own kilns. Once again the results were spectacular, with not only kilns but whole quarries created in clay.

Llandeilo CP School also took part in a visit to the quarries. On the way to the quarries their bus was stopped repeatedly to pay the tolls! Pupils learnt all about the Rebecca Riots and the effect the tolls had on farmers and an enjoyable day was had by all.

Based on the experiences of working with local schools we will be creating a range of learning resources for Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 as a long term legacy of the project. These resources will include lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and worksheets. We will also have information on visiting the site with a group with a full risk assessment. For further information on the educational resources please E-mail Sarah Rees on [s.rees@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:s.rees@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)



*Tycroes Primary re-create a kiln using mod-roc and recycled packaging.*



*Tycroes Primary use play-dough to make a mould for a plaster of Paris fossil.*



*Brynaman CP school test for acidic and alkaline solutions.*



*Llandovery Gollop Prep get stuck into making clay kilns.*



*The finished clay kilns at Llandovery Gollop prep School*



*Llandovery Gollop Prep look to see what's hiding in the alkaline pools of water onsite.*

Ysgol Y Bedol visited the quarries on hot summers day!





*Llandovery Gollop Prep enjoying their visit to Herbert's Quarry*